

## Wessels calls elimination of salary 'very unfair'

By Mary Louise Knapp

The NU Board of Regents' decision to eliminate pay for student presidents serving as non-voting regents is "very unfair," said ASUN president Renee Wessels.

"Students should be outraged at this," she said. "It's crazy."

The regents voted 6-2 at Saturday's meeting that the student regent of the three NU campuses should not be paid because the voting regents do not receive salaries.

Wessels was not present at the meeting when the decision was made. She learned of the decision later Saturday evening.

Wessels said she was not surprised by the decision because she had spoken before the meeting with several regents who were in favor of the proposed policy.

NU attorney Richard Wood said several months ago that the three student regents may be paid for their duties as student presidents if it made clear the salary is not for

serving as student regent. The Nebraska Constitution says regents may not receive salaries.

"It is disturbing that the regents would accept a lay interpretation of the constitution rather than the opinion of their own legal counsel," Wessels said.

Wessels said she has contacted the attorney general's office for an opinion on the matter, but was told the office was not authorized to give opinions on matters concerning the university.

Wessels said she will consider taking the matter to court to test the constitutionality of the decision. She said the regents have the legal right to pass the policy.

Wessels said that in making the decision before the ASUN elections, the regents were pre-empting the students' right to vote on presidential salaries.

The question of whether or not student presidents should be paid will appear on the ballot in the March 4 election.

The decision also could discourage students from running for ASUN for financial reasons, she said.

"Making \$160 a month may not seem like a lot, but it will pay tuition and housing," she said.

Wessels said she hoped the decision would challenge the candidates and motivate them to work harder for students.

She said students and administrators have come out in support of presidential salaries.

ASUN presidents have been paid since 1968, but the level of pay for the student president remained the same when the president was given the position of student regent in 1974.

The new ASUN president and student regent, elected March 4, will receive a regular salary during the entire length of his or her term, Wood said. The new president and student regent, elected in 1982, will be reimbursed only for travel expenses, meals, telephone calls and other expenses incurred as a regent.

Wessels said the regents are defining the presidential salary as "compensation," which is a discriminatory policy.

## Two presidential candidates critical of ASUN

### Party sets forth resistance plan

By Mary Louise Knapp

**Editor's note:** This is the first in a series of profiles on the ASUN presidential candidates. Two profiles will be published each day. The profiles will appear in the order the candidates' names appear on the ballot.

Resistance to the "illegitimate authority" of the NU Board of Regents and the NU Central Administration is the only way students will gain rights, said Eric Johnson, ASUN presidential candidate.

Johnson heads the ticket of the Feminist-Socialist Party.

If elected, Johnson said the party will not be diplomatic with the regents or the administration, nor will it operate within the confines of the ASUN Constitution.

"We will not ask the regents for concessions. We will simply ignore them," he said. "We'll pretend they don't exist."

Johnson said he and the members of his party also will ignore ASUN and any other administrative bodies if it seems in the best interests of the students.

ASUN has no legitimate purpose as it is structured now, he said, and only serves the purpose of "keeping the students off the streets."

"Basically, the purpose of ASUN is so the administration can keep students in their places and deprive them of power by giving them the illusion that they have it," he said.

#### Illegitimate power

Johnson, a graduate student in mathe-

matics, said the term resistance is a revolt against an illegitimate power. Protest, on the other hand, implies the power being fought against is legitimate.

He said previous ASUN administrations have conceded to or openly confronted the regents and administrations. Both tactics assume their power is legitimate, he said.

"The regents have shown they are not a legitimate power," he said.

"Whenever the regents exercise power, they do it in an anti-student way," he said. "Two-thirds of the students don't know who their regent is. There is no recourse but to get rid of the bad ones, and all eight of them are bad."

Johnson called the regents "a collection of good old boys—aged, white, middle-class with ties in the business world."

#### In the hands of a few

The power of UNL is concentrated in the hands of a few officials in the central administration, chiefly NU president Ronald Roskens, not with the regents, he said.

Johnson said the regent's recent decision to eliminate salaries for student presidents serving as non-voting regents interfered with the students' right to vote on the issue in the ASUN election.

"They're just using it as an excuse to put students in their place," he said.

He said one way students could resist the power of the regents and central administration would be to pay student fees and tuition to a special account for students, rather than to the Bursar's office.

This way, students would be able to use the money as they see it, he said.

Johnson said there is "lots of frustration" on the UNL campus against the central administration and regents.

"I hope that when students express their frustration, it will be in a constructive way," he said. "I think that to resist illegitimate authority is constructive."

### ASUN abolition goal of PURGE

By Lori McGinnis

For a person who says he has little political ambition, Tim Higgins has a big goal.

Higgins, ASUN presidential candidate for the PURGE Party, (Party for Urgent Redefinition of Government Expectations) is aiming to abolish ASUN. His running mates are Jeff Matthes for first vice president and Joe Beam for second vice president.

Higgins, a junior from Lincoln, said he is running because "there needed to be somebody to express an anti-ASUN opinion."

"I really don't have any great sense of political ambition," Higgins said. "I guess I felt like somebody had to do it."

However, Higgins said he is capable of being a student leader. Referendums will allow the entire student body to make decisions rather than ASUN senators making them, he said.

If elected, Higgins said he will introduce a bill in the senate to abolish ASUN. If it isn't passed, Higgins said he will order the electoral commission to have a referendum so students can vote on the issue.

#### Not really radical

Other schools have abolished student governments, Higgins said.

"So this is not really a gigantically radical idea."

The NU Board of Regents will pay more attention to a student referendum than a decision by ASUN, he said.

"It's apparent that they (regents) don't have any more respect for ASUN than most of the people on campus."

"It (ASUN) has lost its power, it's lost its credibility, it's lost its freshness," he

said. "There seems to be kind of a boring sameness year after year of the people who run ASUN."

#### Dissatisfaction indicated

Low voter turnout in past years indicates a dissatisfaction with ASUN, Higgins said.

Higgins said ASUN is ineffectual and useless. Senators have no initiative and don't feel responsible to the students after they are elected, he said.

"It's just like a big club. The students on campus don't really have the feeling that they're participating."

Referendums will give students the feeling of participation, Higgins said. One of the first issues to be decided would be whether to allow alcohol on campus.

"If you turn questions like that over to the entire student body, they will have that sense of participation. They will be dictating policy, instead of allowing ASUN to do it," he said.

Higgins said he supports allowing alcohol on campus. Allowing parties in places like the Nebraska Union would save time, energy and lives, he said.

"That's not to say it can be turned into a big free-for-all," he said. However, "the good potential of having alcohol on campus far outweighs what bad things might happen."

Higgins said abolishing ASUN will not damage UNL's accreditation. All that is required for accreditation is some form of student participation. Retaining the Committee for Fees Allocation, the student president and having student referendums will guarantee participation, he said.

"That's basically what's going to turn it (UNL) back into a democracy, which it isn't now."



Daily Nebraskan Photo  
Eric Johnson, ASUN candidate for the Feminist-Socialist Party.

## Campus thefts reported

Students reported two burglaries and two thefts this weekend to campus police.

A burglar took \$44 Sunday from a room on Abel Hall's 13th floor, police reported. The room's door wasn't locked, police said. More than \$140 has been stolen from the 13th floor residents in the past six weeks.

Another burglary occurred Sunday on Abel's 11th floor, police said. A gold watch and a class ring valued at \$155 were taken.

The room's door had been locked. Police reported that pieces of wood were missing from the door jamb and the bolt was scratched.

Sometime last week, four silver-spoked hubcaps were stolen from a car parked in the Area 3 lot at 19th and Vine Streets, police said. The hubcaps were valued at \$80.

Also taken were two steel-belted radial tires, two hubcaps and chrome rings from a car parked in Area 3 east of Sandoz Hall. The items were valued at \$224. The 1974 Chevrolet was lowered onto two concrete building blocks after the tires were removed.

A total of five hubcaps were stolen last week from cars parked in Area 3 lots, police said.



Daily Nebraskan Photo  
Tim Higgins, ASUN presidential candidate for the PURGE Party.